



云南省社会科学院研究文库
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Current Problems of Environment and Its Cultural Background

当代的环境问题及其 文化背景

Edited by Zheng Xiaoyun

郑晓云 主编

中国书籍出版社

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总 序

纳 麒

云南省社会科学院是云南省省级综合性哲学社会科学研究机构，在推动云南哲学社会科学的发展中发挥着重要的作用。2001年，在认真分析形势和找准问题的基础上，院党组和院行政班子确立了把社科院建设成为云南省马列主义、毛泽东思想、邓小平理论、“三个代表”重要思想以及党的路线、方针、政策研究和宣传的重要基地，建设成为云南省各级党委、政府以及社会各界决策咨询的重要基地，建设成为云南省哲学社会科学理论创新、知识创新的重要基地，建设成为云南省人文社会科学加强国际合作与交流的重要基地的奋斗目标。

云南省社会科学院历来重视基础研究和学科建设，逐步形成了社科院的特色学科、重点学科及学术优势，民族和宗教问题研究、东南亚研究、云南历史文化研究、社会发展研究、区域经济和农村发展研究，以及邓小平理论、“三个代表”重要思想等学科和学科方向的研究，在全省、全国都有重大的影响和较高的学术地位，在民族研究、东南亚研究、农村发展等方面在国际学术界也占有一席之地。

在邓小平理论、“三个代表”重要思想研究和宣传方面，云南

省社会科学院取得了一系列重大成果，出版了《江泽民“三个代表”重要思想概论》、《邓小平理论与云南发展》、《邓小平理论与云南 21 世纪发展》、《马克思主义人权观与中国少数民族》、《邓小平经济思想研究》、《当代中国的马克思主义——邓小平理论研究》、《邓小平社会主义论》、《邓小平社会发展论》、《邓小平改革开放论》、《邓小平经济发展论》、《邓小平统一战线论》等著作，系统研究、阐述邓小平理论和“三个代表”重要思想的科学体系和时代特征，受到省委省政府的肯定和学术界、理论界的广泛好评，这些理论成果标志了云南邓小平理论和“三个代表”重要思想研究学科体系的形成和完善。参与完成了国家民族问题五种丛书的编写与部分丛书的修订工作，基于实地研究，向读者全面展示了云南少数民族社会、历史、文化的成果。对科研工作者来说，这是一项可直接加以引用的资料；而对非从事研究的读者来说，它将云南民族情况清晰地展示在人们面前。在民族研究方面，云南省社会科学院的科研人员先后完成了基诺族的识别和崩龙族名称更改问题的研究，为解决民族识别遗留问题做出了重大贡献；完成云南省 16 个少数民族的 16 部民族文学史，填补了国内学术研究空白。建院 20 余年来，全院科研人员编著出版了少数民族历史、文化、社会等方面的学术专著近 200 部，不少成果是本研究领域的开拓之作，在国内外享有较高声誉。在东南亚、南亚研究方面，编辑出版了《当代东南亚系列丛书》、《当代东南亚经济丛书》，组织翻译出版了《剑桥东南亚史》，在东南亚研究领域取得了一批重要成果。近年来南亚研究的发展受到学术界的关注，反映这一领域主要研究成果的《南亚书系》已出版多卷。尤其值得一提的是几代研究人员历经 30

年研究取得的关于傣族起源问题的研究成果，纠正了国际上流行的错误观点，受到了国际学术界的广泛关注。在历史、文化和人类思维研究方面，《云南近代史》首次全面记述了1840年至1949年云南各族人民爱国主义斗争的历史，系统反映了云南近代历史上的社会变迁和发展情况，填补了云南地方史研究的空白；《法言注》被著名思想史专家任继愈认为“这是一部值得向出版界推荐的好书”；《中国神话的思维结构》、《哲理逻辑探要》、《东西方矛盾观的形式演算》、《辩证思维方式论》、《原始思维》、《思维活动论》等系列著作，使云南省思维科学、逻辑学的研究达到了国内先进水平，在学术界产生了良好影响。

近年来云南省社会科学院科研人员锐意创新，在文化产业发展、依法治国和以德治国、农村发展、边疆地区的社会问题、少数民族传统文化的传承与保护、少数民族生态文化建设等方面也产生了一批影响较大的创新性成果。

自2004年以来，我院举全院之力，编撰出版了《云南蓝皮书》，每年出版10至12部，是地方社会科学院系统编辑出版的最大规模的年度蓝皮书，受到了社会各界的好评。同时还推出了《云南全面建设小康社会丛书》、《云南宗教史丛书》等大型丛书，形成了云南省社会科学院对外开放的大型学术平台。

为了认真总结云南省社会科学院几十年来基础研究方面取得的重大成绩，进一步整合基础研究力量，营造良好的学术氛围，提高学术品位，提升基础研究学术水平，打造学术品牌，培养名家，发挥哲学社会科学认识世界、传承文明、创新理论、咨政育人、服务社会的作用，同时，让社会各界，特别是学术界，比较全面系统地

了解云南省社会科学院，从 2003 年开始，我们特别推出《云南省社会科学院研究文库》，每年出版一辑，重在汇集当年云南省社会科学院研究人员的重要成果，希望社会科学界关注、支持、指导和交流，共同繁荣和发展云南哲学社会科学。

Preface

Zheng Xiaoyun

This book is a paper collection based on the session of Expatriation on the Cultural Background of Environmental Issues: Theory and Practice of Ecological Anthropology on Contemporary Age, the 16th Congress of the International Union of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences (IUAES 2009). The current environmental problems and crises such as rapid industrialization, urbanization, and resource depletion are being considered, but the cultural effect is still limited so far. The current environmental challenges and crises are closely related to culture, effecting people's conceptions, behaviors, social norms and social traditions, and so on. Researches also show that the environmental changes are always in connection with the changes of local culture. The status of culture related to environment would influence and change the situation of the environment. Therefore today, the cultural effects definitely need understanding when we probe into the origin of the environmental problems. Exploring the cultural background of the environmental problems and crises is highly valuable for us to understand its origin and find a good way to solve it.

How culture is connected to the environmental problems? People may have friendly conceptions, behaviors, social norms and religions concerning environment, which would benefit the environment in a good status. On the contrary, when a society lacks friendly culture towards environment or the culture is lost in social transformation, it would have adverse influence on natural environment. Research shows that in most cases such an influence

always brings environmental quality into a worse condition. Therefore, it is useful for us to deeply understand the cultural background of the environmental problems before understanding the profound reasons about what brings us the environmental problems. Such consideration will support the policy-making process on environmental protection.

The scientific foundation of the ecological anthropology focuses on the relationship between human beings and nature. Ecological anthropology will bring us the scientific conceptions as well as an analytical tool to explore the cultural effects of the environmental problems, and bring us the possibilities to solve the environmental problems and crises through cultural approach. Simultaneously, ecological anthropology will have broader academic space and perspective on this basis.

This book consists of a series of papers on environment and culture, bringing us many case studies from China and other countries. It is highly worthwhile and beneficial for us to consider the human background on current environmental issues. Even though not all the papers are completely based on anthropological basis, transdisciplinary studies should enrich anthropological studies, which is also an important basic point to evaluate this book.

CONTENTS

Contemporary Environmental Issues and Their Cultural Backgrounds: Anthropological Analysis on Some Cases of Yunnan Zheng Xiaoyun (1)	
Linking Eco-Sensitive Proxies Together for Constructing Regional Eco-History AKIMICHI Tomoya (24)	
Ideal Warming in Local Architecture of Central Iran during Winter Gholamreza Barati (37)	
Four Analytical Methods for Exploring life on the Loess Plateau: a Theoretical Framework for Combining Humanities and Social Sciences with Natural Science Hiroshi NAWATA (45)	
Traditional Land Use on the Loess Plateau (China) and the “Grain-for-Green” Project: a Case from Ansai, Shanxi Ren'ya Sato Hiroshi Nawata Aosier Buhe Ryota Nagasawa Ruichen Jia Wenhui Zhang Qingchun Hou Norikazu Yamanaka (76)	
Culture along the Red River in Vietnam—Problems and Approaches Nguyen Chi Ben (111)	
Ethno-Ecology, Indigenous Knowledge and Traditional Culture of Inhabitants at the Reaches of the Red River Ngo Duc Thinh (131)	

CURRENT PROBLEMS OF ENVIRONMENT AND ITS CULTURAL BACKGROUND

- Ecological Cultural Resources Protection and Development Framework
along the Red River Tourism Corridor
..... Li Xiangchun Hui Huang (142)
- Changes in Indigenous Tibetan Knowledge and Environment: a Case Study
of Jiabi Village in Eastern Himalaya Mountain in Yunnan, China
..... Yin Lun (159)
- Ecological Politics and Indigenous Symbolism of Traditional Ecological
Knowledge in Its Recent Revival in Lan-Yu, Taiwan
..... Jackson Hu (189)
- Utilization and Preservation on Wild Edible Plants of Mang
People in China Yang Liujin (244)
- The Scientific Elucidation on Ethno-Traditional Biological Knowledge
and Its Roles on Biological Teaching
..... Cui Mingkun Zhou Huan (257)
- Protection of Ecological Environment by Harmonious Culture of
Hani People and Its Contemporary Values
..... Chang Fei He Keren (274)
- Ecological Views and Modern Value of Bai Nationality on the Viewpoint
of Ecological Anthropology Yuan Chunsheng Li Hairuo (287)
- The Impact on the Ecological Environment Derived from the Water
Culture Changes of Yunnan Minorities
..... Wang Yang Yunqiang Wang (300)

ABSTRACT

- Social and Cultural Changes of Mongolian Pastoralists Caused by Ecological
Relocation—a case Study of the Ejina Oasis of the Heihe River, China
..... KODAMA Kanako (311)

CONTENTS

Impacts of Human Activities on the Ecosystem in the Heihe River Basin, Western China: an Historical Perspective on the Future	Jumpei Kubota (313)
Living with the Guardian Spirit in a New Settlement: Upland Village Relocation in Southeastern Laos	Futoshi Nishimoto (315)
Conservation Ethics and Eco-Degradation in Arunachal Pradesh: Emerging Dilemmas of a Frontier State	Dr. Sarit K. Chaudhuri (317)
Research on Traditional Knowledge of Kucong People Using Ecological Resources	Zhu Liping (320)
Comprehensive Geriatric Assessment among Elderly Highlanders	Sakamoto R Okumiya K Ishine M Wada T Kosaka Y Kasahara Y Kimura Y Matsubayashi K Wang H Dai Q Yang A Qiao H Gao J Li Z Zhang Y Ge RL Tan X Zhang H Zhao H Er WN Yin S (321)

Contemporary Environmental Issues and Their Cultural Backgrounds: Anthropological Analysis on Some Cases of Yunnan

Zheng Xiaoyun

Abstract

In view of anthropology, the emergence of the environmental issues or crises is always in connection with the cultural development, but today the cultural effects on the environment have not attracted enough attention. Cases studies from Yunnan bring us new ideas on how culture is related to today's environmental issues. An effective approach is to solve the environmental crises in current age by cultural approaches and to build related culture to be the tache between human beings and nature.

Keywords: environment issues and crises cultural background

Preface

Nowadays we are facing many environmental issues and environmental crises, such as air pollution, water pollution, water shortage, desertification, deforestation, global warming and so on. They affect not only the people's livelihoods today, but also the sustainable development of human beings. Therefore, it has become a dilemma to seek solutions and methods for addressing these contemporary environmental issues. The environmental issues

CURRENT PROBLEMS OF ENVIRONMENT AND ITS CULTURAL BACKGROUND

that we face today come into being due to fast urbanization, industrialization and excessive development and utilization of resources, excessive consumption and poverty. Besides this, are there any other reasons that people have not paid sufficient attention to? For saving current environmental crisis, are there any means and approaches other than technical means and institutional construction?

Anthropological concerns about the environment are mainly manifested simultaneously in the cultural relationship between human beings and the environment, such as people's understanding about the environment, relevant social norms, behaviors, environmental utilization and materials results, such cultural relations are different in different nationalities and societies. In the view of anthropology, the emergence of environmental issues was directly related to the culture of human beings. However, the cultural elements which concern environmental issues have not drawn enough attention today. To thoroughly solve today's environmental problems, the most important consideration is to understand the essence of the problem from the standpoint culture, and simultaneously relevant cultural construction is also necessary. By taking this research, I will examine the relationship between the emergence of environmental problems and the relevant cultural background by being based on some cases in Yunnan Province, China, and by examining the feasibility of solving environmental issues by cultural means.

1. The Analysis about Cultural Backgrounds of cases of Environmental Issues in Yunnan

Yunnan is a border province in Southwest China with a population of 44.5 million (2005). It is also the province with the largest number of nationalities, and the most landscape diversity and biodiversity. Almost 96% of the land in Yunnan is hilly with less than 4% of flat land. Yunnan is also the origin of the upper reaches of many big rivers, such as Lancang/Mekong

River, Red River, Nujiang/Salween River, Yangtze River and Pearl River, etc. Such landscape characteristics have created typical biodiversity of Yunnan. Numerous rivers, diversiform landscape and outstanding biodiversity also result in fragility of the ecological environment. In recent years, a series of typical environmental issues have emerged; such as water pollution, water shortage, deforestation, land degradation and soil erosion, which are all related to the characteristics of the ecological environment of Yunnan. To be specific, degradation of forests, water pollution and water shortage are the most typical issues. The emergence of such problems, on one hand, is the result of rapid development and construction in Yunnan, excessively fast urbanization and excessive utilization of resources. On the other hand, there are also some deep submerged cultural cases. I would like to analyze them with some cases.

Case 1. Water Pollution: Water Environmental Issues of Dianchi Lake

Dianchi Lake is located in the central part of Yunnan-Guizhou Plateau. It is the sixth largest fresh water lake in China, sitting at the divide of three great river systems: Yangtze River, Pearl River and Red River. The water area of Dianchi Lake is about 300 km squared, with more than 20 main rivers and streams emptying into the lake. Dianchi Lake is also an important water source for industrial and agricultural production and the urban life of Kunming City, the capital city of Yunnan Province, and it is an important element for the biological and climatic equilibrium of Kunming. Since the 1980s, Dianchi Lake has been gradually polluted, and the situation is becoming worse and worse. It has become one of the most seriously polluted lakes in China, listed by the Chinese government as one of the three key lakes that need to be managed in the target.

The pollution and treatment of Dianchi Lake has experienced different stages. In the 1980s, pollution was mainly caused by industrial discharge and urban wastewater discharge around Dianchi Lake. The main causes were industrial discharge and destruction of the surrounding environment.

CURRENT PROBLEMS OF ENVIRONMENT AND ITS CULTURAL BACKGROUND

However, since the 1990s, the polluting industries around Dianchi Lake have been treated, and a large number of polluting factories have been closed. The main pollution sources of Dianchi Lake since the 1990s have been Yunnan's increasing population, expanding the urbanization process and rural changes. Presently, there are around 4 million residents around Dianchi Lake, and the environmental pressure brought about by progressive urbanization and increasing population has become the most important cause of pollution to Dianchi Lake. Large quantity of wastewater is directly discharged into Dianchi Lake through the river courses. According to the monitoring, since 1988, the water quality of 29 main rivers emptying into Dianchi Lake have basically been Category V and Sub-Category V, and the water quality of Caohai, inner lake of Dianchi Lake in closest proximity to Downtown Kunming, is also Sub-Category V, which is an eutrophic state.

Of the total components of pollutants emptying into the Dianchi Lake, urban domestic wastewater is still in the dominant position, accounting for 74% of the total pollutants emptying into the lake^①.

The pollution of urban domestic pollutants on Dianchi Lake is not only due to outdated wastewater treatment facilities and lack of waste treatment facilities, but also due to the social behaviors and mentalities of residents around Dianchi Lake. The residents around Dianchi Lake lack the awareness and good behavior needed to protect Dianchi Lake, and their way of living has directly caused pollution to Dianchi Lake. Many residents dump large quantities of garbage directly into the river courses, turning the rivers emptying into Dianchi Lake into a garbage dump, or they pile large quantities of garbage on both sides of the rivers emptying into Dianchi Lake. According to the website of Dianchi Administration of Kunming City, up to the end of 2007, the relevant departments of Dianchi Administration dragged 16 000 tons of garbage from the main rivers emptying into Dianchi Lake. In November 2005, an activity was taken by Dianchi Administration of Kunming City to

① February 28, 2007. Kunming Daily.